

Music is a moral law. It gives tone to the universe, wings to the wind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything.—Plato.



MUSIC IN THE HOME



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Americans Find Music More Vital Than Europeans

More and more as the days of war talk and war preparation go by the people of this country are beginning to realize that "strains of martial music" are as great a factor in the work of equipping an army as the bullet and gun. Where the latter mean death and devastation to the enemy the former means courage and spirit to the American soldier.

There is probably not a soldier under the United States flag today who is not spurred on to greater accomplishment for the protection of his country and is made to feel keenly the glory of his native land, when he hears strains of songs that he sung "back home."

Nothing thrills the folks at home who have contributed a son or a loved one to the cause more than the singing of patriotic songs.

In thousands of Washington homes today, both from those that have furnished volunteers and those who have done their bit in some other manner, there are being sung daily the new and the old songs that breathe a blessing on the fighting forces of America.

Harold Bauer, the noted pianist, is not an American, which of itself emphasizes his tribute to Americans, when he says that music is a more vital need to Americans than it is to Europeans.

Americans find in music a reflection of their own feelings; it is for them a vehicle for sentiment and emotion, the substance of Mr. Bauer's belief. For Europeans, on the other hand, music is a pleasure, an amusement, or sometimes a science, or a means of esthetic cultivation.

In Europe, says Mr. Bauer, music students listen to the artist in a critical attitude entirely; they look for this or that flaw, or try to learn how he interprets this or that passage.

In America, however, audiences listen to the artist and to the amateur purely for the joy of listening. They get an emotional experience each time that they hear a work well played.

MAKE SINGING MEN OF FIGHTING MEN

The part that music is destined to play in the life of the American soldier during the period of his training in camp is foreshadowed in the announcement by Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell that Camp Upton, Yaphank, L. I., New York, is to have a large song auditorium in the country. Here the national army will raise its voice in song under the leadership of that pioneer in the community music movement, Harry Barnhart.

On Major General Bell's theory that "singing men are fighting men," the work of building the song auditorium will get a tremendous impetus. The funds now being collected by the mayor's committee for the Camp Upton Recreation Fund will be used for the central assembly building in which the community singing will

take place. Other buildings for singing are being considered but none as pretentious as the big auditorium.

Major General Bell intends to make an appeal to the soldiers to contribute one dollar each toward the erection of the stadium, in this way hoping to realize over \$40,000. A special dollar fund for the same purpose is in charge of W. Kirkpatrick Brice.

A few years ago the idea of organized musical activity, under the direction of experts, for the soldiers' recreation would have been subjected to ridicule. The plan has the hearty cooperation of the War Department, which realizes that music is a vital factor in the life of the soldier in camp as well as in the field. Making the soldiers performers, giving them the experience of making music instead of merely listening to it, is a step in the right direction.

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN MUSICIANS PLANNED

Musicians throughout the United States are no longer to be strangers to each other if the plans of the musicians' clubs of New York and Los Angeles materialize. These clubs propose a league of similar societies, so that musicians visiting in the different cities may enjoy social advantages, and so that eventually the association may exert a powerful influence in the musical world.

If we have advertising clubs, Masonic organizations, theatrical societies and various other types of societies and clubs with affiliations throughout the country, why cannot it be made possible to have a chain of musicians' clubs?

The idea of forming a league of musicians' clubs originated at a meeting between David Blapham, vice president of the Musicians' Club of New York, and Thomas Taylor Drill, president of the Musicians' Club of Los Angeles. As there are now musicians' clubs in every important city in the United States, the project to link them more closely together seems quite feasible.

Mr. Drill's statement concerning the plan, as given recently in "Musical America," is significant:

"We hope to amalgamate all the musicians' clubs of America into a concrete body for the betterment and uplift of the musical profession."

"Also we hope that through this means we may help the musician to take his proper place as an active factor in the civic affairs of his community as well as of the nation. How often is the musician called upon to participate in conferences on civic matters? Although the profession includes many number of men and women of high intellectual ability and of invaluable experience, their opinions and co-operation are not sought unless it is for some purely musical consideration. They are looked upon more as public entertainers than as citizens whose interests or views rank

Modern Man and Music

It was Pythagoras who, five hundred years before the Christian era, maintained that the motions of the twelve spheres must produce delightful sounds although inaudible to the mortal ear, and he called the sounds the "music of the spheres." But more than three thousand years before Pythagoras, it was Jubal who was called "the father of all such as handle the harp and organ."

To trace the origin of music would be almost as impossible as to discover the birthplace of sound. Through all the ages harmony, as represented in music, has been a source of enjoyment to all races and all degrees of intelligence. To the modern man, however, has been given more means of producing music, of making harmony audible, than in all the world's history.

No home is so modest that it may not enjoy in some form the "concord of sweet sounds," by means of as expensive or as inexpensive musical instruments as the purse affords. To this home enjoyment is added in Washington the opportunity through several series of concerts to hear both instrumental and vocal music of the highest quality and at reasonable cost.

Nor is the time and expense of a musical education required, since the reproduction of the playing of great artists is easily available in the specially equipped pianos and music producing instruments.

The advantage resulting from being able to play, if even only for personal enjoyment and with modest skill, is available to modern homes as never before, and its influence for good is beyond estimating.

with those of men in other professions. "In Los Angeles we have done much to overcome this condition. Our club is actively interested in all affairs that concern the city or nation. We made propaganda for the Liberty bond issue, we have helped in the Red Cross work and we keep a close watch on municipal affairs."

GET MORE PLEASURE OUT OF YOUR MUSIC

If you would get the most pleasure out of music, you should hear the compositions over and over again. There is no danger of growing tired of them, if they are worth hearing at all.

The beauties of a piece of music cannot be fully appreciated at one performance. One of the handicaps to musical progress in America has been the failure to have good numbers repeated on subsequent programs. It is hardly practicable, however, to duplicate numbers on the comparatively few concerts that the average American is privileged to hear.

There is one course which makes for real musical development—that is, music in the home. And this wonderful possibility is one of the many inestimable advantages of the phonograph and the player-piano.

Readers of this page are urged to get phonograph records or player-piano rolls of their favorite selections, and each week add to their repertoire. A complete list may be obtained from advertisers mentioned on this page.

IMMIGRATION HELPS CAUSE OF MUSIC IN U. S.

Music has been greatly helped by immigration. There is much con-fecturing just now as to an after-the-war immigration policy, but looking back it is readily seen to what an extent the cause of music in our country has been advanced by the coming to our midst of those from across the ocean who desired to make new homes for themselves in this fertile country.

Like other branches of art, music has prospered in the old world, and this is only natural. During the years when immigration flowed to our shores there came those who had been reared in an atmosphere of music and to them and their children we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

From among this class came a goodly proportion of our church organists, orchestra players, bandmen and music teachers. Be it said to their credit, many of them were firm believers in having music in their homes. Those who came from the foreign countries of Europe brought love of singing and playing in their hearts.

It astonishes one, who has not had occasion to know, to learn to what extent our foreign population are purchasers of talking machine records. Many of them delight in the opera records. Their children soak up the musical training the public schools give like a large sponge in a dribble of water. If the greatness of this country's future lies to a very substantial extent in the new citizenship molded from a fusion of temperaments, then to the rank and file of our foreigners will much credit be due for the introduction of more music among the masses.

To the advanced musicians from Europe who came to us and have since become staunch and loyal Americans goes a good measure of credit for musical leadership. With the foundation that is laid, may every one do his part in making the United States a really musical country.

SIXTY YEARS OF GROWTH IN MERCHANDISING



BACK TO THE PIANO

A Talk to Those Interested in the Study of Music
By E. H. DROOP

Years ago, before the advent of the wonderful mechanisms that today enable us to enjoy everything in music, the piano was the most popular of all home instruments, and "to play" was considered a necessary part of a finished education.

It required hard work to learn to play well, but people didn't seem to mind that, for the results attained, the pleasure they derived and gave to others, were an offset to the efforts involved.

Then appeared the Victrola and Player-Piano, and as these instruments gained in favor the study of the piano fell away; today, however, a great percentage of our people are turning back to the old "Music in the home—by homefolks" idea, as is evidenced by the steadily growing demand for pianos of quality.

We do not wish to intimate, even remotely, that the Player-Piano and Victrola are not just as popular as ever; they will always be popular, for each one in its respective sphere has done and is doing more to make America a Musical Nation than the efforts of all artists, orchestras and bands combined! It is through the use of these instruments alone that the great masses of our people are enabled to hear and enjoy everything in musical literature at comparatively small cost and no sacrifice of time and labor; in addition to this, these instruments have taught appreciation of Good Music and the people have unconsciously absorbed what might be termed, a fair musical education.

It cannot be denied that the Player-Piano and the Victrola are a distinct aid to every one interested in cultivating knowledge and appreciation of all that is best in music.

However, it is the Personal Effort, the Personal Touch, as it were, that lends charm to each and every performance, and for that reason so many "grown-ups" have taken fresh interest in the study of the Pianoforte and many parents are seeing to it that their children receive instruction on the Piano along with other studies.

All children love music and they learn quickly; therefore, every encouragement should be given them to develop their musical tastes. This can only be done through having a Good Piano in the Home and securing the services of a good piano teacher.

To, you, the Parent, we say: "Don't neglect your child's study of music, for it means so much in future years in happiness and contentment—it may even prove the means of livelihood."

We are making a specialty of the beautiful Huntington Piano—distinctly a home instrument; its cost is moderate and it will give absolute satisfaction and service for years. Start YOUR "Music in the Home" with one of these fine pianos now, and at a later day, should you wish to change it for a fine Steinway Grand or Upright Piano you will find us ready to trade with you on a fair and liberal basis.

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